

# DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## COMPLIANCE UPDATE By Kim Slote, Assistant Associate

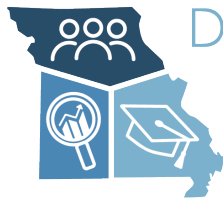
### COMMON MANUAL

The Cooperative Agreement for Guarantors Participating in the *Common Manual* was initially approved Sept. 10, 1995, last amended Aug. 18, 2016. This agreement between guarantors that administer the Federal Family Education Loan Program was for the purpose of publishing a common policy manual to be used as a guide for their schools, lenders, secondary market and servicer clients. For 2020-2021, the *Common Manual* Governing Board is contracted with Ascendium Education Group, formerly Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation, to facilitate the development and adoption of policies that are consistent with the requirements of Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, applicable regulations and other guidance published by the United States Department of Education. Policy proposals are presented to the *Common Manual* Governing Board for consideration and approval, before being incorporated into the *Common Manual*.

Proposed policy updates and technical edits can be submitted by anyone in the FFELP community. In addition, comments on current proposals are welcomed by Ascendium Education Group on behalf of the *Common Manual* Governing Board. Instructions for how to submit comments or to submit policy proposals and technical edits for the *Common Manual* can be found at the following links.

- [Submit Policy Proposals/Tech Edits](#)
- [Review Proposals Out for Comment](#)

The *Common Manual* Governing Board approved policy changes proposed in Batch 222 on Nov. 19, 2020. Summaries of the most recent policy updates made to the June 2020 reprint of the *Common Manual* will be posted to the *Common Manual* website at the following link <https://commonmanual.org> in the [Approved Policies](#) section. The common bulletin language for each policy change drafted by Ascendium Education Group is also provided at this link. The common bulletin language is attached to this compliance update, without revision, for your review. Changes made in the proposal will be incorporated into the *Common Manual* annual update.



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Policy Change Approved Nov. 19, 2020

*Unified Student Loan Policy*

Batch 222: Proposal 1333

The nation's guarantors provide the following summaries to inform schools, lenders, and servicers of the latest *Common Manual* policy changes. These changes will appear in the manual's next annual update. These changes will also be incorporated into the Integrated *Common Manual*. The Integrated *Common Manual* is available on several guarantor websites, and it is also available on the *Common Manual*'s website at <https://commonmanual.org>. Please carefully note the effective date of each policy change.

### **Tax-Exempt Organization Volunteer Deferment**

The *Common Manual* has been revised to no longer prohibit a borrower giving religious instruction, conducting worship services, engaging in religious proselytizing, or engaging in fundraising to support religious activities from qualifying for the tax-exempt organization volunteer deferment.

<b>Affected Section(s):</b>	11.16.A Eligibility Criteria – Tax-Exempt Organization Volunteer
<b>Effective Date:</b>	For deferment requests received by a lender/servicer on or after July 1, 2021, unless implemented earlier by the guarantor.
<b>Basis:</b>	§682.210(m)(1)(iv) as amended in the <i>Federal Register</i> (85 FR 49798) published on August 14, 2020.
<b>Policy Information:</b>	1333/Batch 222
<b>Guarantor Comments:</b>	None.